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protecting California's  
natural areas from  
wildland weeds through  
restoration, research,  
and education**

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February 6, 2003

Mr. Earl Nelson, Program Manager  
Flood Protection Corridor Program  
Department of Water Resources  
1416 Ninth Street, Room 1641  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Dry Creek Watershed Protection Project

Mr. Nelson,

I am writing to support the Dry Creek Watershed Protection Project funding proposal. It is especially important that funds are included for controlling *Sesbania punicea*, scarlet wisteria. Cal-EPPC's 1999 list of *Exotic Pest Plants of Greatest Ecological Concern in California* ranks *S. punicea* as a "Red Alert" weed, one with "potential to spread explosively." Since 1999, the species has spread considerably, may move onto our "A" list in the upcoming revision.

It is crucial that populations of *Sesbania punicea* in Placer and Sacramento counties be controlled, since the plant is an imminent threat to spread to riparian areas downstream. SAFCA's approach of eradication followed by long-term monitoring is an effective strategy, and has the potential to control *Sesbania* before it further infests California waterways.

We fully endorse SAFCA's proposal, and look forward to the opportunity for contributing to the project team. Please do not hesitate to contact me on this matter.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Doug Johnson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Doug" and last name "Johnson" clearly distinguishable.

Doug Johnson  
Executive Director